

## CLAIMS

1    1.    A magnetic head, comprising:  
2                a magnetic pole;  
3                a media heating device;  
4                a first electrical insulation layer being disposed below said media heating device;  
5                a second electrical insulation layer being disposed above said media heating  
6                device;  
7                a sacrificial layer being disposed above said second electrical insulation layer.

1    2.    A magnetic head as described in claim 1 wherein said media heating device is  
2    disposed adjacent to said magnetic pole, and said sacrificial layer is disposed between  
3    said media heating device and said magnetic pole.

1    3.    A magnetic head as described in claim 2 wherein said sacrificial layer is  
2    comprised of a material that is a seed layer for said magnetic pole.

1    4.    A magnetic head as described in claim 3 wherein said seed layer is comprised of  
2    NiFe.

1       5.     A magnetic head as described in claim 2 wherein said magnetic pole includes a  
2     magnetic pole pedestal, and wherein said sacrificial layer is disposed between said media  
3     heating device and said magnetic pole pedestal.

1       6.     A magnetic head as described in claim 1 wherein portions of said sacrificial layer  
2     are exposed at an air bearing surface of the magnetic head.

1       7.     A magnetic head as described in claim 1 wherein said sacrificial layer is less than  
2     approximately 2,000 Å thick.

1       8.     A hard disk drive including a magnetic head, comprising:  
2              a magnetic pole;  
3              a media heating device;  
4              a first electrical insulation layer being disposed below said media heating device;  
5              a second electrical insulation layer being disposed above said media heating  
6     device;  
7              a sacrificial layer being disposed above said second electrical insulation layer.

1       9.     A hard disk drive as described in claim 8 wherein said media heating device is  
2     disposed adjacent to said magnetic pole, and said sacrificial layer is disposed between  
3     said media heating device and said magnetic pole.

1    10.    A hard disk drive as described in claim 9 wherein said sacrificial layer is  
2    comprised of a material that is a seed layer for said magnetic pole.

1    11.    A hard disk drive as described in claim 10 wherein said seed layer is comprised of  
2    NiFe.

1    12.    A hard disk drive as described in claim 9 wherein said magnetic pole includes a  
2    magnetic pole pedestal, and wherein said sacrificial layer is disposed below said media  
3    heating device and said magnetic pole pedestal.

1    13.    A hard disk drive as described in claim 8 wherein portions of said sacrificial layer  
2    are exposed at an air bearing surface of the magnetic head.

1    14.    A hard disk drive as described in claim 8 wherein said sacrificial layer is less than  
2    2,000 Å thick.

1    15.    A method for fabricating a magnetic head, comprising:  
2        fabricating a first magnetic pole of said magnetic head;  
3        depositing a first electrical insulation layer upon said first magnetic pole;  
4        fabricating a media heating device upon said first electrical insulation layer;  
5        depositing a second electrical insulation layer upon said media heating device;  
6        depositing a sacrificial layer upon said second electrical insulation layer;

7            fabricating a further component of said magnetic head wherein said fabrication of  
8        said further component includes a step that results in removing portions of said sacrificial  
9        layer that are disposed above said media heating device.

1        16.      A method for fabricating a magnetic head as described in claim 15 wherein said  
2        sacrificial layer is composed of a material that serves as a seed layer for the electroplating  
3        of another component of the magnetic head.

1        17.      A method for fabricating a magnetic head as described in claim 15, wherein said  
2        media heating device includes an electrically resistive heating element.

1        18.      A method for fabricating a magnetic head as described in claim 15, wherein said  
2        step of depositing a sacrificial layer includes the step of depositing the sacrificial layer  
3        material full film across a surface of a wafer wherein said magnetic head is fabricated.

1        19.      A method for fabricating a magnetic head as described in claim 16, wherein said  
2        sacrificial layer is comprised of nickel iron.

1        20.      A method for fabricating a magnetic head as described in claim 15, wherein said  
2        further component is an induction coil portion of said magnetic head.

1    21.    A method for fabricating a magnetic head as described in claim 16, wherein said  
2    another component of the magnetic head is a magnetic pole.

1    22.    A method for fabricating a magnetic head as described in claim 15, wherein said  
2    further component is an induction coil portion of the magnetic head, and a magnetic pole  
3    is fabricated upon said sacrificial layer following said step that results in removing  
4    portions of said sacrificial layer.